

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2761

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO

SUBJECT: LEADING NORWEGIAN DAILY COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH
ON SVALBARD

1. (BEGIN SUMMARY) IN AN EDITORIAL ON NOVEMBER 10, NORWAY'S
LEADING DAILY "AFTENPOSTEN" COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON AMBASSADOR'S
SVALBARD REMARKS IN NOV. 5 DEFENSE COLLEGE ADDRESS. EDITORIAL
OBSERVED THIS STATEMENT OF U.S. SVALBARD POLICY FIRMLY
SUPPORTS NORWAY AND NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND INDICATES
U.S. WANTS STABILITY IN THE AREA. IT SAYS REMARKS SHOULD
BE WELCOMED BY ALL COUNTRIES WITH INTEREST IN SVALBARD,
AND STRESSES THAT THE U.S. VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA SHOULD BE NOTED AND OBSERVED BY
USSR. IT URGES THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION THERE (END SUMMARY).

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2. TEXT OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

3. (BEGIN TEXT) THE SPEECH GIVEN BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY, WILLIAM A. ANDERS, AT THE DEFENSE COLLEGE LAST FRIDAY, SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INTEREST IN THIS NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGO. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PUBLIC HAS GOT A CLEAR AND COHERENT ACCOUNT OF AMERICAN SVALBARD POLICY, AND A TIME WHEN THE ARCHIPELAGO IS RECEIVING INCREASING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. THE U.S. FIRMLY SUPPORTS NORWAY AND NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY, AS IT IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE SVALBARD TREATY OF 1920, AND SAYS AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE AMERICANS, LIKE THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, DO NOT WANT ANY CHANGES WHICH CAN REDUCE THE STABILITY IN THE AREA. THIS MUST ALSO BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE RUSSIANS. THIS MAY BE A DESIRE SHARED BY BOTH SIDES WHICH WOULD BE A GOOD BASIS FOR A CLARIFICATION OF UNSOLVED QUESTIONS AT SVALBARD.

4. AMBASSADOR ANDERS POINTED AT THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE QUESTIONS WHEN HE STRESSED THAT "AN EFFECTIVE NORWEGIAN ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND AREAS AT SVALBARD WHICH ARE UNDER NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY, IS UNDOUBTEDLY AN IMPORTANT GUARANTEE THAT ALL PROVISIONS OF THE SVALBARD TREATY WILL BE RESPECTED AND THAT THE TREATY ALSO IN THE FUTURE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING STABILITY IN NORTHERN AREAS." STRIPPED OF ITS DIPLOMATIC FORMULATION, THIS STATEMENT SAYS THAT ALSO THE SOVIET UNION MUST ACCEPT NORWAY'S RIGHT TO MAKE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO. THE RUSSIANS HAVE SO FAR REJECTED SUCH REGULATIONS ON MATTERS DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OIL DRILLING, REGISTRATION OF CARS, FLYING PERMISSIONS, AND THE USE OF MOBILE RADIOS. SEPARATELY, THESE CAN SEEM LIKE SMALL ISSUES, BUT TOGETHER THEY DEPICT A CLEAR PATTERN: THE RUSSIANS WANT TO REDUCE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THEY THEMSELVES CAN BEHAVE AS FREELY AS POSSIBLE AT SVALBARD.

5. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SOVIET ATTITUDE MAY BE TO
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BRING ABOUT SOME FORM OF JOINT NORWEGIAN-SOVIET ADMINISTRATION. THIS THE USSR FORMALLY DEMANDED DURING WORLD WAR II, BUT NORWAY HAS TURNED DOWN SUCH A POLICY, WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SVALBARD TREATY. THE CONSISTENT SOVIET NEGATION OF NORWEGIAN ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS IN REALITY WEAKENS THE CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES IN THE ARCHIPELAGO, BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE THE TREATY SIGNATORIES - AND THERE ARE

NEARLY FORTY OF THEM - EVERY RIGHT TO DEMAND
SIMILAR PRIVILEGES. SUCH A DZFRLOPMENT WOULD SERIOUSLY
THREATEN THE RELATIVE QUIET WHICH IN SPITE OF ALL
HAS PREVAILED AT SVALBARD. AMBASSADOR ANDERS MADE
IT CLEAR THAJ2#3 ,945#34 -43- , INCLUDING SVALBARD
ALSO ARE "OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO NORWAY'S ALLIES IN
NATO."

6. AFTER THE AMERICANS NOW HAVE CLARIFIED BOTH THEIR
INTEREST IN THE NORTHERN AREAS AND THEIR WISH THAT
STABILITY BE MAINTAINED THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE NORWEGIAN
ADMINISTRATION, IT WOULD BE IN ORDER FOR THE KREMLIN
TO REASSESS ITS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE
NORWEGIAN ADMINISTRATION AT SVALBARD. AND ON THE
NORWEGIAN SIDE, THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD MAKE STRONGER
EFFORTS THAN BEFORE TOWARD DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING
AN EFFECTIVE NORWEGIAN ADMINISTRATION OF SVALBARD.

END TEXT.
ANDERS

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